

R E A S O N S

F O R

Dividing the Road from KINGSTON upon *Thames* to SHEET-BRIDGE near *Petersfield*, into two districts, under separate Trusts.

I.

THAT the said Road is more than *forty* miles in length.

II.

That the number of Commissioners resident on the *northern* half of the said Road (in which the Town of GUILDFORD is also situate) was, originally, *double* the number of those that resided on the *southern* half, and *two-thirds* of the *whole* number appointed by the Act:—And that, of the said *two-thirds* so resident on the *northern* half of the Road, considerably more than *one-fourth* (or nearly *one-fifth* of the *whole* number) is actually resident in the Town of GUILDFORD itself, including that part of *Stoke* which adjoins to it.

III.

Hence it hath come to pass that, in the execution of the Trust vested by different Acts of Parliament in the Commissioners *at large* (such as the appointment of *Meetings*, the filling up of *Vacancies*, the repair of the *Road*, &c.) such of them as reside on the *northern* half of the Road have hitherto had the direction of the *whole*.—Nay, such of them as reside in GUILDFORD *only* are enabled to prescribe for the conduct of this business without controul, unless near *forty* Commissioners should attend for that purpose from out of the *southern* division, many of which must come *twenty* or *thirty* miles on the occasion.

IV.

And the consequences of all this have been such as were naturally to be expected:—For,

1. The

1. The *Meetings* of Commissioners have very rarely been appointed to be holden at any place *southward* of GUILDFORD; that is, at any place within the *southern* half of the Road; nor, consequently, within *twenty* miles, at least, of the residence of many of the Commissioners, who therefore have seldom been able to attend, and that, not without great inconvenience to their private affairs.

2. Vacancies in the Trust, by the death, or otherwise, of the Commissioners residing on the *southern* branch of the Road, have been filled up in such manner by those of the *northern*, as that the number of those in the latter, which was originally *double*, is now become *treble* of the former, making nearly, if not quite, *three-fourths* of the *whole*.

3. In consequence of the powers originally vested in, or since acquired by, the Commissioners residing on the *northern* branch of the Road, little or no attention hath been paid to the repair of the same through the whole *southern* half of its extent; so that the greater part of it, from GODALMING to SHEET-BRIDGE is in a *ruinous* condition.

4. As a particular instance of the neglect here charged on the Commissioners residing in and near GUILDFORD, it is to be noted, that, when an offer was made to the Commissioners, in or about the year 1770, by the Rev. *Henry Croker*, Lord of the Manor of *Bramshot*, to build them a Bridge over a dangerous Water at *Liphook*, for the sum of *fifty* pounds, they (*viz.* the Commissioners residing in or near GUILDFORD) rejected the same; in consequence of which, the nuisance remains, and cannot *now* be removed at the expence of an *hundred* pounds.

5. And, as a striking proof of *general* mismanagement, the sum of 486*l.* 2*s.* hath, by the direction, or under the connivance of the Trustees of the *northern* branch, been paid to the Surveyor, at different times to the 20th of August last, without taking any account of the disbursement of, or any security for, the same: Whereby the Commissioners
were

were obliged to borrow the farther sum of 500*l.* for the discharge of several debts incurred by the Surveyor, and due to Labourers whom he had employed on the Road.

6. As a farther instance of the unfavourable intentions of the Commissioners residing on the *northern* half of the Road, and particularly of such of them as are inhabitants of GUILDFORD, it may not be amiss to observe, *incidentally*, that, with a view of subjecting the Town of GODALMING and the adjacent Country to such *extra* charges on goods coming to their Wharf as might most effectually obstruct the intended benefits of a late Act for making the River navigable from *Guildford* to *Godalming* (which Navigation hath been found of great public utility) they did, no longer ago than the 21st of January last, at a meeting of Commissioners then holden at GUILDFORD, *Resolve*, “ That it was necessary “ to erect a Toll-gate at *Milford*”, a mile and an half *southward* of GODALMING, and where the Roads from *Petworth* and *Haslemere* join that from *Sheet-Bridge*;—and this, notwithstanding the sense of Parliament expressed on a similar attempt made in 1767, when, by their Act then passed, they did remove a Gate then lately erected on the *south* side of GODALMING, by the then Commissioners of the *northern* branch of the Road.

In consideration of the premises, the Nobility, Gentry, and others, interested in the complete repair of the aforesaid Road from *Kingston* to *Sheet-bridge*, do hope that the Hon. House of Commons will be pleased to provide that the said Road be, in future, divided into *two* separate *Districts* (the division taking place at the *north* end of the parish of GODALMING) and that the repair of the same be thenceforth placed under the management of separate *Trustees*.

April 28, 1791.

R E A S O N S

F O R

Dividing the SHEET-BRIDGE Road
into two separate Districts, &c.

7